



Image left: Lisa Reid, *Life Drawing-seated*, 2002, ink on paper, 50 x 60 cm.

Image right: Yvette Coppersmith, *John Safran*, 2009, right panel, oil on plywood, 120 x 90 cm.

JUNE/JULY EXHIBITION

FEM-aFFINITY | Curated by artist and academic Dr Catherine Bell

Dates | 15 June - 20 July

Opening | Saturday 15 June, 3-5pm

Opening 15 June is a new exhibition at Arts Project Australia investigating the synergies in the distinctive practices of 14 contemporary female artists.

Curated by contemporary artist and ACU academic **Dr Catherine Bell**, and supported by NETS Victoria, *FEM-aFFINITY* brings together female artists from Arts Project and wider Victoria whose work share an affinity of subject matter, technique and process. By situating these female artists alongside each other, the curatorial intention seeks to uncover related variations of female identity and perspectives on historical feminist concepts.

Drawing upon interdisciplinary approaches, such as painting, printmaking, drawing, performance and photography, the exhibition also considers how artworks are a complex and nuanced way of thinking about embodied knowledge and how it aligns with identity politics explored in contemporary art.

The 14 exhibiting artists include **Fulli Andrinopoulos, Dorothy Berry, Yvette Coppersmith, Wendy Dawson, Prudence Flint, Helga Groves, Bronwyn Hack, Janelle Low, Eden Menta, Jill Orr, Lisa Reid, Heather Shimmen, Cathy Staughton and Jane Trengove.**

"I'm a regular visitor to the Arts Project Australia gallery and have a particular interest in the work of the female artists who attend their studio," says curator Dr Catherine Bell.

"I have often considered the uncanny connections their work has with other female contemporary artists. I'm interested in highlighting the affinity. Curating a selection of past works by each artist demonstrates a sustained line of enquiry. The opportunity for the artists to collaborate and develop new work for the show celebrates these ongoing themes and connections".

The collaborations between artists underpinning *FEM-aFFINITY* are supported by NETS Victoria, as Mardi Nowak, Director, NETS says, "It is about fostering ongoing relationships, support and a stronger understanding of each of the artist's work and this project has done this incredibly well. I'm sure these conversations will continue well past the exhibition."

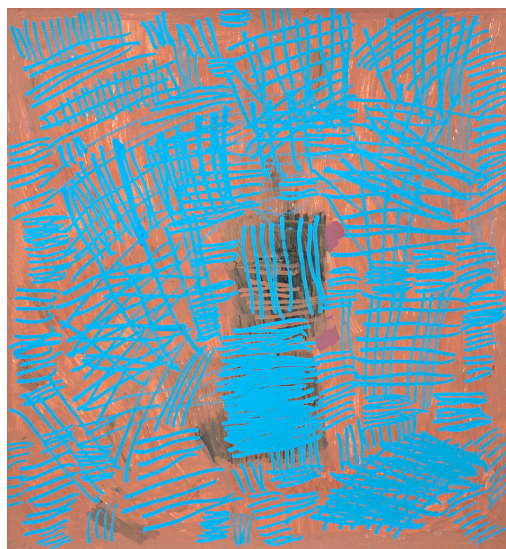
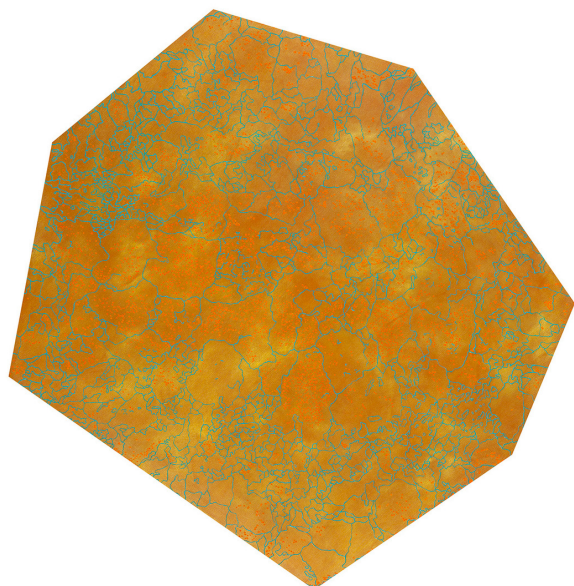


Image left: Helga Groves,
Island, 2016, oil paint, wax and
medium on wood, 94 x 94 cm.

Image right: Wendy Dawson,
Not titled, 2018, paint pen on
paper, 35 x 33 cm.

Exhibiting artists **Yvette Coppersmith** and **Lisa Reid** have painted portraits of prominent males in the arts, and over the next few months they plan to draw male life models together. Meanwhile abstract artists **Helga Groves** and **Wendy Dawson** share a similar creative process of layering pigment and surface detail, and they will work in metallic mediums and continue to explore abstract patterns.

Heather Shimmen and **Bronwyn Hack** are inspired by gothic narratives, famous women in history, and the natural world. Their collaboration will produce an exquisite corpse made up of multi-panel, lino prints that incorporate depictions of the body, flora and fauna.

Other collaborative responses will evolve between artists **Jane Trengove** and **Fulli Andrinopoulos**, **Janelle Low** and **Eden Menta** and **Prudence Flint** and **Cathy Staughton**.

Seminal art works by veteran artist **Dorothy Berry**, curated from the APA permanent collection, and art world legend **Jill Orr**, on loan from institutional collections, will also be included in the show. This pairing reinforces their shared interest in birds as symbolic motifs in their respective practices and acknowledges their valuable contribution to Australian Art.

Each year, Arts Project invites exciting and prominent curators to work with Arts Project to curate an exhibition that places the work of Arts Project studio artists alongside the work of other Australian contemporary artists in the Northcote gallery space – *FEM-aFFINITY* is the first externally curated exhibition of 2019, with the second exhibition *Yo Melbourne We're From Philly!* curated by **Alex Baker**, **Director, Fleischer/Ollman** (Philadelphia).

Arts Project Australia is a studio and gallery that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice. In the last few years Arts Project artists have exhibited at galleries including National Gallery of Victoria, Museum of Old and New Art, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Gertrude Contemporary, West Space, Artspace and Darren Knight Gallery.

This exhibition has received assistance from NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. This exhibition is further supported by Limb Family Foundation, Leonard Joel & Art Guide Australia.

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High-resolution images are available here (captions are in file names).